BOROUGH OF RED HILL

COUNCIL MINUTES

Wednesday, May 9, 2018 - 7:00 PM

President Doris Decker called to order a meeting of the Red Hill Borough Council on the above date at 7:08 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Council President, Doris Decker, Vice President, Charles McCleary, Elizabeth DeJesus, Donna Paul, Lawrence Morton and Robert Walp.

ABSENT: Mayor Dave Schiffgens and Faith Diascro

OTHERS PRESENT: Mark Hosterman, Esq. Solicitor and Gia McKinley, Secretary-Treasurer

VISITORS PRESENT: Jeanne Cove

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Elizabeth DeJesus and seconded by Charles McCleary to approve the minutes from April 11, 2018, Council meeting. All-in-Favor, motion passes.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Gia McKinley advised that 2017 Audit is complete and is open for viewing at the Borough office. She further advised that Elizabeth DeJesus will share the Auditor's letter, which is also available to the public at the Borough office.

Elizabeth DeJesus reports on the 2017 Auditor's letter from Styer Associates Certified Public Accountants.

A motion was made by Charles McCleary and seconded by Lawrence Morton to approve the Treasurer's report. All-in-favor, motion passes.

A motion was made by Charles McCleary and seconded by Robert Walp to pay the bills. All-in-Favor, motion passes.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION: None

REPORTS:

RED HILL FIRE CHIEF, Mike Eschbach: Report on File.

*Events from May 10, 2018 – June 12, 2018

-May 26, 2018; Fire Company Boot Drive

-May 28, 2018 Memorial Day Events 09:00 Service @ Red Hill VFW Memorial

-May 28, 2018 Memorial Day Parade: Pennsburg/East Greenville – see pg. 6 for motion of authorization

-June 2, 2018: Assist Trumbauersville Fire Company with Community Day

-June 8, UPHS Graduation

A motion was made by Lawrence Morton and seconded by Donna Paul to approve the Fire Company events listed above. All-in-Favor, motion passes.

RED HILL FIRE POLICE, Andrew Kirka: Report on file.

RED HILL FIRE MARSHAL, John Lehr:

*There are six fire inspections scheduled and one completed.

*Five parking citations were issued.

*There was a fire at the Upper Perkiomen High School on April 28, 2018.

VISITOR, Jeanne Cove

Jeanne Cove, on behalf of the Upper Perkiomen Library, wishes to thank the Borough of Red Hill for their continued generosity. She passed out the calendar for the month of May and gave a few highlights on programs and workshops sponsored by the library. Ms. Cove was very excited to share information about three new museum passes that provide free access to the Academy of Natural Sciences, Morris Arboretum, University of Penn Museum of Archaeology & Anthropology and the Elmwood Park Zoo.

UPPER MONTGOMERY JOINT AUTHORITY, Charles McCleary:

*Met on May 1, 2018

*May 2, 2018, The UMJA Board accepted the resignation of former Executive Superintendent, Glenn Quinn. Jennifer Leister, Assistant Superintendent, is now Acting Executive Superintendent until further notice. Ms. Leister possesses the necessary qualification to facilitate this role and has been training for several years under Glenn Quinn.

*Open invitation to UMJA's Ground Breaking Ceremony May 22, 2018, at 10:00 AM, 1100 Mensch Dam Rd., Pennsburg. All those interested should RSVP to Lori Horning.

UPV REGIONAL PLANNING, Dave Schiffgens: No Report

DRUG TASK FORCE, Donna Paul: Report by Robert Walp

*Met on April 16, 2018

*Comcast Cares Day on April 21, 2018, was a success.

*Upcoming Events: 5/7/18 – How to Talk to Your kids about Substance Abuse

*Next meeting May 21, 2018

*Note: Donna Paul needs to verify she is on the email list, Doris Decker will follow up.

BUDGET COMMITTEE, Donna Paul – No Report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, Doris Decker: Reported by Lawrence Morton

*Met on May 1, 2018

*Meeting topic discussed was the Aspects of Department Review of Montgomery County Economy and Projects.

Mr. Morton states that the recent turn pike expansion has caused the Lansdale to flourish. He explains a more affluent area creates more opportunities for business investment and development, and with this comes a need for housing. Since the current trend seems to be renting over home ownership, he wonders if it might be beneficial for the Borough to explore developmental housing-apartment options for some of the vacant buildings in town.

GENERAL SERVICES, Charles McCleary:

*Quote from Hildenbrand Excavating, Inc. Charles McCleary

Charles McCleary produces a quote from Hildenbrand Excavating, Inc. for $6,000 and explains that it would cover additional assistance, on an "as needed basis," for the Red Hill road crew. He expresses that there are small areas that need patching and that Conrad Bender, Road Master, sometimes requires additional help. He points out the estimate includes labor, equipment, hauling and tack coat and black top. Ms. DeJesus questions if this is included in the budget, and Ms. Decker answers that if not, then perhaps it could be found in another area. Ms. DeJesus volunteers that she and Donna Paul will review the budget.

A motion was made by Elizabeth DeJesus and seconded by Robert Walp to accept the estimate from Hildenbrand for $6,000 to assist Conrad Bender, Road Master, on an as-needed basis for small road repair and/or patching jobs.

PARKS & RECREATION, Lawrence Morton

*Planting flower beds.

Mr. Morton advises that he is interested in planting flowers in the park and would like to enlist the help of a local community group such as the Girl Scouts.

*Trash cans with missing lid pieces.

Mr. Morton continues to look for broken lid replacements for park trash receptacles that are no longer produced. At this time, Mr. Morton makes an inquiry regarding his budget balance. Ms. DeJesus advises that his budget is slim due to the fact his budget includes park maintenance items such pesticide spraying and general care of the lawn and trees.

*Spraying the park without posting enough signs.

Mr. Morton expresses concern that there are not enough signs posted after the park is sprayed. He would like to see more signs. Ms. Decker assures him that someone will follow up on his request.

*Park pavilion needs rain gutters.

Lastly, Mr. Morton explains there is a lot of mud around the perimeters of the pavilions when it rains. He adds that the pavilions are rented and he would like to discuss a solution. Mr. Hosterman suggests installing rain gutters. Ms. Decker suggests that Mr. Morton should follow up with Conrad Bender and Chuck McCleary-General Services. Ms. DeJesus adds, considering that budget season is fast approaching, Mr. Morton should acquire estimates now this way the cost could be factored into next year's budget.

PERSONEL, Elizabeth DeJesus

*Ms. DeJesus advises that Jake Beyer, part-time - summer help, started on Monday, May 7th.

RED HILL PLANNING COMMITTEE, Dave Schiffgens: No Report.

REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE, Elizabeth DeJesus

*Met on May 2, 2018

*Working on a comprehensive revitalization plan to be presented to Council in 2019.

Ms. DeJesus shares some of the ideas that Lauren Vyn Dyk, Montco Community Planner, presented to the committee. They would like to formulate a plan by next year to present to the Council in time to take advantage of 2019 grant opportunities. There was discussion of kicking off with a "good faith" type project in the center of town, in the vicinity of the Fourth Street area. Other ideas mentioned were: patterned crosswalks, flowers for VFW memorial, and garden planters. Ms. DeJesus also notes the idea of a mini project such as "Borough Cleanup Day."

*The next meeting will take place in July sometime.

MAYOR, Dave Schiffgens: No Report

ENGINEER: Report on file

*MS4 NPDES to be submitted to DEP on May 15th

*2040 Montco Grant and bioretention project are in the process of being reviewed and announcements are expected by the end of the month.

SOLICITOR, Mark Hosterman:

*Dumpster Ordinance Discussion

Mark Hosterman, Esq. reads through the proposed dumpster ordinance.

A discussion ensued regarding dumpsters on both private and public property. The length of time a dumpster should remain on location and permitting issues. It was proposed that dumpsters on private property should be registered at no cost via a permit issued at the Borough office, for a period of 30 days. A permit may be renewed and extended subject to review. Dumpsters on public property will be granted a permit after the site is inspected for safety at a proposed cost of $50.00. Some suggestions are as follows: $50 – 5 days, $75 – 14 days / $250 constructions. Mark Hosterman will update the ordinance to reflect the changes discussed at tonight's Council meeting in preparation for advertisement approval at the June Council meeting barring any significant changes recommended by the Red Hill Borough Planning Commission.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT, Doris Decker,

*The check for subrogation settlement check for the flooding has arrived in the amount of $1,594.62

*EVENTS:

5/11 10:00 AM Upper Perkiomen Valley Way Finding Sign Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

-5/22 10:00 AM UMJA Groundbreaking Ceremony - RSVP by 5/16 to Lori Horning

-5/22 7:30 PM Special Meeting, MS4 Pollution Reduction Plan Presentation by Christine Mildner of BIA

-Breakfast invitations:

5/23 Volunteer & Public Servant Appreciation Breakfast, RSVP by 5/16

6/1 6/1 7:00-9:30 AM Legislative Breakfast Session

6/6 8:00 AM Open Link Breakfast - RSVP to Gia by 5/23

6/14 7:30 AM Upper Perkiomen Valley Chamber of Commerce Community & Commerce Breakfast

-5/28 9:00 AM Memorial Day Service @ VFW Monument, followed by Memorial Day Parade at 9:30 AM

-5/30 7:00 PM Conversations with your Commissioners, Upper Perkiomen YMCA, Pennsburg

*Hometown Heroes Banners

15 of 23 Poles have been approved. PP&L requires the banners to hang over the sidewalk and not the road. The Borough was able to choose the poles the banners are to be hung from in hopes of avoiding overcrowding. In order to be consistent, it is suggested that any current banners be moved to hang over the sidewalk as well.

A motion was made by Charles McCleary and seconded by Elizabeth DeJesus to reposition any banners that are currently hanging over the road to hang over the sidewalk in order for all the banners to be uniform. The vote being five to one in favor of moving the banners to be uniform, motion carries.

*Roads

Ms. Decker suggests that the Borough should consider the use of chip and tar on some of the roads that do not require full restoration. This could be a cost-effective tool allowing the treatment of more roads while preserving existing road structure. Ms. Decker mentions that she has spoken with officials from other municipalities that have used this method, and they have advised it is a good alternative for roads that do not need reconstruction and will lengthen the time the road lasts. Ms. DeJesus points out that there are also varying techniques to help to increase durability and to compact stones on less traveled roads. Ms. Decker advises that she, Ms. DeJesus and Conrad Bender, Road Master, will continue to look into this.

*Chamber of Commerce Map Project

The Chamber is producing a new map of the Upper Perkiomen Valley. They would like to know if Red Hill would like to advertise in the map brochure. When asked by Ms. Decker, the Council answered unanimously - no.

OLD / NEW BUSIESS

*Selling the Ford F-250 Pickup Truck on Municibid

Ms. DeJesus advises that comparable trucks can list between $9000-15, 000.00. She reports that although our truck has low mileage, it is a bit roughed up and will be sold without the spreader and plow attachments. Also, she inquiries about a reserve amount, and it's decided that should be set at $11,500.00 and that she should confer with Conrad Bender to work out the details.

A motion was made by Donna Paul and seconded by Elizabeth DeJesus to approve the 2000 Ford F-250 for sale on Municibid with a reserve of $11,500, subject to Ms. DeJesus discussion with Conrad Bender, Road Master regarding listing price. All-in-Favor, motion passes.

*Maintenance Department to Erect Signs in Preston Court as needed

A motion was made by Charles McCleary and seconded by Robert Walp to approve the Maintenance department to erect signs in Preston Court for a flat fee of $30/sign. All-in-Favor, motion passes.

*Request for Council President to sign the UMJA Sewer Connection Form for 655 Jefferson Street

A motion was made by Elizabeth DeJesus and seconded by Lawrence Morton giving approval to the Council President to sign the UMJA sewer connection form for 655 Jefferson Street contingent upon rewording changes implemented by the Borough Solicitor, Mark Hosterman. All-in-Favor, motion passes.

*Fraud Policy

The Fraud police scheduled for review was temporarily put on hold due to the comment from Mr. Hosterman that there may be a Fraud Policy already in place. It was determined that Ms. DeJesus will look in the Borough archives for said policy, and this issue will be revisited at a future Council meeting.

*ACT 172 Discussion - continued

The suggestion was made to disburse a flat fee or stipend of $500.00 per fire company volunteer upon meeting the required criteria. The required criteria would be that established by the various municipalities who have been working together on trying to establish a program that works for all municipalities in the area.

The stipend would be available to all those members serving the Red Hill Fire Company whose towns do not have any type of program based on taxes or a stipend. All were in agreement with the amount, the points system and the eligibility criteria. However, it was determined that Mr. Hosterman should make further inquiries as he is concerned with tax laws and reportable funds over $250.00. He would like to clarify

the Borough's position and available disbursement methods. Ms. DeJesus comments that some Boroughs turn the money over to the Fire Company, and they determine how best to disburse the funds. The topic will be revisited at a future meeting after more investigation by Mark Hosterman and Elizabeth DeJesus.

*Advertise Ordinance 2018-546 Amendment to Rental Ordinance

A motion was made by Charles McCleary and seconded by Elizabeth DeJesus to advertisement Ordinance 2018-546; Amendment to Rental Ordinance after review by the Planning Commission and considering any minor changes requested by the Planning Commission. All-in-Favor, motion passes.

*Parking Ordinance Violation Section

After some discussion, a suggestion was made to increase the amount of fine payable upon conviction from $45.00 to $250.00 plus any associated court costs. This was agreed upon by everyone.

A motion was made by Elizabeth DeJesus and seconded by Robert Walp to increase the amount of fine payable from $45.00 to $250.00 for up to 30 days, applicable to Parking Violations referenced in Chapter 15, sections 4-402 and 6-604 and to grant authorization to advertise this Ordinance 2018-547; Amendment to Chapter 15, Part 4. All-in-Favor, motion carries.

The discussion continues with Borough Officials who must attend court when a traffic ticket is on the docket. Mr. Hosterman asks how often an official might be required to attend court with in a year. John Lehr, Fire Marshall, answers may two or more times. After more discussion, it was determined that the Borough representative attending court should be reimbursed one half of the $250.00 paid to the Borough upon conviction of the offender.

A motion was made by Elizabeth DeJesus and Charles McCleary designating that the amount of $125.00, or one half of the $250.00 court cost fee paid if a violator is found guilty, should be made payable to the Mayor, Fire Marshall or other approved official/Officer attending court as a representative of the Borough for parking violations. All-in-Favor, motion carries.

Approval of Fire Police for Memorial Day Parade

A motion was made by Elizabeth DeJesus and seconded by Lawrence Morton that the Red Hill Fire Police should be permitted to offer assistance during the Memorial Day Parade on May 28, 2018 for both Pennsburg and East Greenville Boroughs. All-in-Favor, motion carries.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Lawrence Morton and seconded by Robert Walp. All-in-Favor, motion carries.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gia McKinley

Gia McKinley, Borough Secretary